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TO RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE 6507
INFO EUROPE ONLY COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 STATE 164120

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EO 12958 DECL: 12/06/2017
TAGS PGOV, PHUM, PREL, RS
SUBJECT: (C) EUR DAS KRAMER'S MEETING WITH XXXXXXXXXXXX

Classified By: EUR DAS David Kramer, reasons 1.4 (b) and (d)

1. (C) SUMMARY: On December 4, EUR DAS David Kramer met with XXXXXXXXXXXX. XXXXXXXXXXXX was highly critical of the recent Duma elections, alleging Election Results

2. (C) XXXXXXXXXXXX expressed pleasant surprise at the sharply critical assessment of the elections leveled by OSCE PA and PACE. XXXXXXXXXXXX noted

3. (C) XXXXXXXXXXXX said the reaction across Russia shows that for the educated electorate, the elections left a bad taste and smell. He said that

4. (C) XXXXXXXXXXXX explained the success of LDPR Vladimir Zhirinovskiy by the fact that the Kremlin had forced all other charismatic politicians
XXXXXXXXXXXX

5. (C) XXXXXXXXXXXX

Succession

6. (C) XXXXXXXXXXXX said that popular opinion in Moscow believes that Sergey Ivanov is out of the running for President. He commented that Putin

7. (C) XXXXXXXXXXXX noted the effect of a law on the Duma passed two years ago that would allow Putin to decide to take or refuse the Duma mandate

Anti-Western Rhetoric

8. (C) XXXXXXXXXXXX acknowledged the large volume of anti-Western rhetoric that has figured prominently in the recent months leading up to the